14.52 hrs.

MOTION RE: APPROACH PAPER TO THE NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN — Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Item No. 9 regarding Motion on Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan for which five hours have been recommended by the Government.

If the House agrees, we may tentatively allot five hours to this item.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : I beg to move :

> "That this House do consider the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) laid on the Table of the House on the 26th February, 1997."

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Madam, it would be better if the hon. Minister makes some preliminary remarks so that the discussion can go in a particular direction.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : If the Chair permits, I would be very happy to speak for it is my favourite subject. But since we have tabled the Approach Paper very well in advance, I thought that it is entirely more appropriate for me to respond later to the suggestions of the hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is entirely for you to respond now or later. If you wish you may respond now.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is your privilege to say something, otherwise we are ready for the debate. Just as when a Bill is introduced by the hon. Minister, and if he wants to say something on that Bill, he may say so.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Madam Chairperson, I am very grateful to the House for giving the Planning Commission and the Planning Ministry this opportunity for a discussion on the Approach Paper of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Approach Paper has been considered in detail by the National Development Council and I am very happy to report to the hon. Members that it has received support from the State Governments across a political spectrum of the country. The Approach Paper has also been discussed in the Rajya Sabha where again the objectives of planning, planning methods followed in this country, and the approach to the Ninth Five Plan had been generally very supportively commented upon.

Basically, the Approach Paper first tries to look at what has happened in the last five to eight years, what are the strengths and weaknesses of the economy, and then tries to develop a strategy for the next five years. It notes that there has been a higher rate of growth, and that the country is doing well as far as its balance of payments is concerned, But generally, on the price side, there has been a performance which is satisfactory although it is concerned about the price rise of foodgrains in the last year or so. But it also notes that there have been some underlying features which are of considerable concern. These are slowing down of agricultural growth potential. These are an increase according to the National Sample Survey. Of the male workers, unemployment per person per day is increasing.

[Translation]

Madam Chairperson, I consider this fact of great importance because when a person in a village goes out for employment we inesure him in terms of man-days and if he goes for employment and he gets employment of less man-days than what he had got earlier, it is a serious thing.

[English]

So, the Approach Paper comments on this. It is disturbed by the fact that in some of the large populous States of the country, income growth has been very low. In U.P., for example, the per capita income growth at constant prices has been constant. In Bihar, it has gone down. Taking these kinds of figures, it has spelt out a strategy in the Approach Paper. It tries to present a strategy for the next five years and it presents a kind of bifocal strategy walking as it were on two legs.

The first major emphasis that it gives is growth. The growth that we have achieved in the past has also to be accelerated in the future. The Approach Paper says, Yes, we are growing at around six to seven per cent and the average of around six per cent has already been within our reach in the recent past. In fact, there are some international commentators who are predicting. For example, the Link model my teacher Lawrence. Klein, which is a global model has predicted that India's growth rate will be around 6.8 to seven per cent in the next five years. In fact, its predictions, in the past two or three years have been fairly true also.

The Approach Papers says, if we can particularly achieve the strategy of cutting down the deficit on the revenue account of the Government, that is one critical feature which we think as a problem, because if you are able to do that, if you are able to cut it down, let us say, by 0.8 or 1.0 per cent of GDP, then it is possible for you to raise your investment levels to 27 to 28 per cent. With some improvement in the capital productivity, we should be able to achieve seven per cent growth rate. So, one focus is, keeping up the process of reforms, keeping up the emphasis on structured subsidies but trying to cut down the waste whether it is in the Central Government or in the State Governments and achieve this objective of higher growth.

But the other objective that it says which is equally or more important is that you need special efforts for those areas where we have done very badly or we have not done well as we wanted to. Take for example, the basic minimum services, whether it is primary education, literacy, health for every child, woman and man in the country by extending the public health system to the village; providing rural connectivity, that is every village can be connected by road. In the areas of drinking water, food security system, public distribution system, rural housing, it says, the kind of method which is adopted in the basic minimum services plan, which is, you sit down with the States, develop the targets together. We hand a meeting for two days of all the Chief Ministers of the country. I would say that the basic minimum services plan of the Approach Paper of the Ninth Plan owes a lot, for example, to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhairon Singh Sekhawat. He contributed to it; or it owes to the Chief Minister of Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu or the Chief Minister of Bihar, or the Chief Minister of Orissa. I chaired a committee with these four Chief Ministers which decided that all these programmes that we have in this sector, we will put them together, we will add on the outlays to them by Rs. 2,400 crores last year, Rs. 3,300 crores this year – which is 15 per cent increase in real terms. It is very easy to say, this is a small sum of money.

15.00 hrs.

But in a period of fiscal restructuring, to put in Rs. 2,400 crore in an additional objective, to put in Rs. 3,300 crore are the very major resources which we want to bring to bear on these terms. It is not just the resources, but the method.

[Translation]

Then what should be the method ? The method is that we and the State Governments will decide the target of that plan by sitting together. This is also a method that we will not merely talk of target, Among these Chief Ministers who are very senior have said this too that they will also shoulder the responsibility and they will provide 20 per cent resources. Those states which are poor as the Chief Minister of Bihar said that they did not have to much resources. The committee of Chief Minister, of which I am the chairman, was of the view that such states should provide man-power because they have the man-power. I have overheard somebody saying that we can what achieve this target. I do not consider it right. It is also maintained in the Plan that we have encouraged the State Governments. Similarly, it is hoped that the State Governments would give same encouragement to panchayats and communities of villages at the regional level. So that they could participate in these schemes. If the communities take part in them and if new methods are adopted, we can achieve our targets. The Chief Ministers said so and so were the technical methods and they could bring down the cost incurred on education, health and all other things. And if communities are also involved in them, I think that the new structure of employment which is termed as cooperative federalism by the Planning Commission, we will not formulate that Plan sitting in Delhi alone, that plan will not be formulated under one Ministry, we will rather formulate that plan sitting among the State Governments. If somebody says that it is a very easy task, it is not that easy. We want to set up a structure so that we can throsh out a solution to these problems with a sense of responsibility and policies and target could be formulated and achieved. The Union Government or the Planning Commission would be given due resources but resources should also be made available to states so that we can achieve those targets at State level and local community level.

Similarly, it is also mentioned in this Plan that as much expenditure which should have been incurred on the agriculture sector, that much has not been incurred on that.

[English]

The rate of agricultural capital formation has caused concern. Again, we have said that for this sector we will produce a detailed plan. A beginning has been made by the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

[Shri Yoginder K. Alagh]

What is the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme? If is a programme which takes projects. It says.

[Translation]

The money which will be spent on this in next two or three years, that is alright. But water should also be made available to the fields of farmers from dams and canals. Some resources should be provided to him by the centre and some by the State Governments. A special scheme should be formulated for the eastern sector. The Planning commission has had talks with the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard. I, myself, are striving for this that a tube well based scheme should be formulated for the North-Eastern States.

[English]

So for these sectors – the sector of concern, water, agriculture, infrastructure – the Plan says, in the Eighth Five Year Plan, the additions to public infrastructure, whether it is power or communication has been one of the lowest in any Five Year Plans. These are the areas in which the Approach Paper wants to concentrate.

What are these areas ? These are basic minimum services, the lives of our people, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, science and technology. In these areas, in fact, we are saying, we will do more detailed planning. We will plan for policies, involvement of the community, involvement of the private sector, involvement of cooperative, and voluntary organisations, involvement of modern technology within the country, outside and we will focus on these in greater detail. For the rest, we want to pursue the path of economic reforms so that we keep on achieving higher and higher agricultural, industrial and overall rates of growth. So these are the kinds of strategies talked about.

Take science and technology. A programme, again, focuses both on policies as well as the role of the State. We have started with that; we were able to persuade the Finance Minister. We have these large scientific establishments which are there for the last forty or fifty years, like CSIR, which has been there for the last almost fifty years. So if we are able to relate them with the solution of problems, every rupee that they earn in terms of bringing science to application, the Government gives them an additional rupee. It is one of the most powerful incentives that is bring given anywhere in the world rate now for a science establishment to relate to the solution of problems; or we have set up a Technology Development Board where we say we look at projects where science establishment sits with large industry, gets some contribution from industry and thinks out the solution of major problems which have ripple effects. This does not mean that the State will not have its own Plan.

I have announced, as Minister of Science and Technology, a *Suvarno Jayanti Scheme* which says that 'if any young Indian dares to say that he is going to do a global research, State of the Art research, world ranking, if he gives a project, we will fund it for you'; or whether it is the space sector where we are committed now developing the cryogenic engine. We are successful now in launching satellites up to 2000 kg. and the cryogenic engine is making progress; or whether it is nuclear energy getting into the thorium cycle, the fast breeder reactor. This year we have provided funds for almost all our ongoing projects as well as some of the new ones which are coming through.

So, we are saying that in a few sectors we will plan in detail. We have great concerns for problems of employment, poverty removal, in the employment area, widespread agricultural growth. One of the strategies suggested is the widespread agricultural growth, which is the basic agricultural strategy of the Plan, which is described in the Plan Document, so I do not want to take time on it but I can respond later on.

But in every district, we would like that where there are agro-processing opportunities or where there is additional demand, then the small farmers, the labourers should develop a project, so that they can take advantage of these facilities; so that the talk of wider markets is not just how metropolitan areas are but it starts linking up with the basis of our economy which is our farmers, our labour force and our artisans; so that expanding markets at the regional, national, global level relate with our work force and the technology that we need for upgrading of skills, transport mechanisms, quality control, are the kinds of projects which we would like to have in every district in India. That is what the Approach Paper is saying.

But is recognises that in that short run, we may not be able to achieve objectives. There will be poor people in India, there will be unemployed people and for them we have suggested and it has been accepted by the Government that there will be an Employment Guarantee Scheme. Anybody in India, who wants work at the ongoing wage rate – it is a demand driven system – will be given work in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Now, these are the kinds of things which we want to develop more. I must report to you that in the National Development Council, there was a lot of discussion on the employment part. I am only giving the broad strategy and I think that these are the things which we need to spell out in detail.

Madam Chairperson, I do not want to give a very long speech because many of these are there in the Approach Paper. I think, since the hon. Members did give me an opportunity, I thought that I would give you some of these kinds of exciting things that are happening in the Planning Commission and in the discussion that we have had on planning in the National Development Council and in Rajya Sabha.

I would say that I am really looking forward to this discussion. There are some very senior and very experienced Members in this House. In addition, I do not mind saying that since the first time I worked in planning. I am basically a University teacher, who worked in Gujarat but in 1974 I was asked to come to the Planning Commission as an Adviser. I had always found the discussions in Lok Sabha very instructive and I remember the days of sitting in the Official Gallery and listening very carefully to the Members. It is because you give us the perception of the strength of our people, of their problems and how we can make our resources go further.

I would only say that the Planning Commission is very clear that these are not easy things. We are talking about some of the most fundamental problems of the Indian economy. But, I think, the Planning Commission has made an effort to try and re-orient planning to the demands of the country in the 1990s. it is aware of the fact that markets have a great potential. The decentralise markets have a great power and they can be used to the benefit of our people. But it does give the message that where markets fail, where markets are not there, then the State will intervene. I do want to tell those who think that that should not happen that India does not believe in that. If takes planning seriously and that kind of intervention on selected areas, on important national priorities whether required for the self-reliance of the country or for seeing to it that the poorest of the Indians has the minimum requirements that he needs, will continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That this House do consider the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five year Plan (1997-2002) laid on the Table of the House on the 26th February, 1997."

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Thank you Madam for giving me this opportunity.

After I glanced through this Approach Paper and after I heard the hon. Minister, it reminds me only one things – "दिल बहलाने को गालिब ये खयाल अच्छा है।"

We know what is the condition of this paradise which we call 'India'. A sheer glance of this Approach Paper will tell us that it is an exercise in wishful thinking, it is an exercise in deception and it is an exercise in manipulation of figures.

I do not know by what magic the Minister can reconcile the fundamental forces of globalisation and marketisation with his allocated planning. It is basically irrational and wrong and there is no explanation for that. He has said, 'Yes, we will intervene'. How will he intervene ? What effect will that intervention actually have on the ground ? To my mind, this Ninth Five Year Plan is nothing but a loose denture, fabricated denture, which will not be able to bite into the ever hardening crust of the Indian planning and economic problems.

The hon. Minister has spoken about science, technology and other things. I will come to those and tell what the actual picture is. If the Planning Commission and this Government had been serious about the fundamental problems of this country, it should gave done some soul-searching, it should have seen that why the country is in such a poor shape after eight Five Year Plans, after more than four decades of planning. Why is it so, ? If he sees the report card of the last so many years, he will get a horrifying picture. It is not that we have not advanced much. We may have. We had the Green Revolution in some way. We had the White Revolution 'in some way. Our life expectancy has increased. But the issue is not advancement *per se*. The issue is of a comparative advancement, how the world has advanced and how we have advanced. I will give him the figures which will give the real reality.

Now, if you look at it during the last 50 years, in 1950-51, India's share of the world's Gross National Product was two per cent; now it is less than one per cent. In 1950–51, 12 per cent of the third world's Gross National Product was attributed by India; presently, the corresponding contribution has come down to five per cent. The position in respect of industrial production is no different. In

[Shri Jag Mohan]

1950-51, India's industrial production comprised two per cent of the world's total output; today, this percentage is about 0.7. In 1950-51 14 per cent of the Third World's industrial production came from India; now it has decreased to about four per cent. In line with this downward trend, India's share in the world's foreign trade declined from about two per cent in 1951 to 0.6 per cent at present. What do these figures show ? These data show that we have not advanced vis-a-vis the world as a whole. But we have not advanced sufficiently even with regard to the developing countries, if you compare it with the developing countries also. So, this is the actual report card of that Eighth Five Year Plan. Have you ever considered why it is so ? It is because we do not have an implementational will. It is because we just breathe in wishful thinking. We want to paint a rosy picture and live with that rosy picture.

The hon. Minister has said about agricultural production. He is saying it is falling down. We say that it is all right. Green Revolution was there. But let me tell you as to what is the other aspect of this green Revolution. During the period of Green Revolution in 1979=80, the farm output of the country has increased only by 2.5 per cent. The amount of advancement made in agriculture and what we have got out of it is totally disappointing. The corresponding percentage of Indonesia – I am not giving statistics of any advanced country – was 3.7. For Malaysia, it was 4.7 per cent and for Thailand, it was 4.6 per cent and we who talk of Green Revolution, had achieved 2.1 per cent of it.

Against the average world yield of 3,580 kg. per hectare, India's rice yield is only 2,756 kg – the lowest in Asia.

Similar is the position with regard to maize and I do not want to give you that figure. The position with regard to sunflower is equally bad.

Now, what is more important is not the food production itself, it is the accessibility to food that matters. What is the position today ? 250 million people in India consume less than three–fourth of the needed calories and there are another 55 million people who get even less than 50 per cent of the needed calories. What is the food production meant for if such a percentage of people is really not able to get the food that they really need for their health ?

What about the poverty alleviation ? The Planning Commission has done such a wonderful work during the Eighth Five Year Plan that it is not even clear as to what is the number of people, what is the percentage of people who are below the poverty line. Different figures are given by different Governments. That itself shows the art of manipulation that varies with the Government. Now, what is the position actually ? The data which I am giving you is given by the international authorities. Fifty-five per cent of the Indian people are poor as compared to 47 per cent in Sub-Sahara Africa and 20 per cent in China. The yardstick is the same. Therefore; the question is of only comparative figures. If you make a liberal yardstick, then another country would like to adopt that figure.

If the category of extremely poor it taken, India's percentage remains as high as 33. China's percentage is eight. It is 30 in respect of Sub-Sahara Africa. You can just imagine where our poverty is!

Now, as an academician, the hon. Minister is aware of the concept of what is called the capability of the poor – the capacity of the poor to live a meaningful life, to have food for himself, to have education for children. That is the capability poor concept evolved by UNDP. If the applies that concept, 61.5 per cent of the people in India will fall in the capability of poor category. I do not know how the hon. Minister can say that we have done this and we have done that. That is past, but what my worry is that the hon. Minister is not trying to learn anything from the past shortfalls.

Please look at the Human Development Index. Out of 174 nations which have been tabulated by the UNDP, our rank is 134 . . .*(Interruptions)*. It has gone down at 135. Probably this will happen because of the Ninth Plan.

Then, let me come to the Gender Development Index. It is again UNDP figures. The hon. Minister talks about the Welfare Ministry, welfare plans, etc. But what is the position ? India ranks 103 amongst 137 nations tabulated. Even Iraq and Iran rank higher at 75 and 96 respectively. Only countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh rank slightly lower than this. Such ratio has come down from 1972 to 1927.

The hon. Minister was particularly mentioning about Science and Technology. Is it a fact that the UNESCO's Report, what is called the World Science Report of 1996, says that India's share has declined between 1981 and 1995 with the world total science output by 17 per cent and India has joined the club of those who are going down remarkably in this period ? The newly industrialised country whose growth model we are meant to follow raised their share as much as by 312 per cent whereas we have declined. China has raised it by about 247 per cent. It is a very good commentary on our development of Science and Technology !

The hon. Minister also mentioned about the nuclear energy. What is the truth about the nuclear energy ? There was a time when 10,000 M.W. nuclear energy had to be produced before the wonderful reform process started. Even Rs. 15,000 crore worth of material was purchased. But then there was the usual talk about constraints and other things. It was reduced to 5,000 M.W. and later on to 2,300 M.W. and so on. Apart from losing a very valuable source of energy, what has happened during this period is that the allocation has come down. All those private concerns which are fabricating material for Science and Technology, for nuclear plants and Government departments who are engaged in this have suffered. When the allocations come down so drastically, then we ask the Nuclear Power Corporation to go to the market and raise loans. Who will give them loans from the market at a comparative rate ? They have already got into a sort of vicious circle. But what I want to say is that because of the slashing of the programme, a great deal of demoralisation has come in our scientists and technologists. Their number has reduced and they are going out. They are either ready to got to private sector or abroad. Now, the old and efficient scientists who have done a lot of work probably, they will wither away from the scene in due course. The younger generation will not come and fill in the gap. So, what will be our future so far as the science and technological advancement is concerned ?

We will be left with second-rate personnel because the first-rate will go away. The tremendous amount of demoralisation is taking place. Are we building a happy future or are we building a future which will be crippled by the absence of advance technical or scientific personnel ? I really do not understand how the Minister said that we would be doing this and that in the field of science and technology when they are making people go away from this country.

The only progress we have made during these Plans is that the population has gone up and so has the indebtedness Our debts have increased tremendously. Today, we are the fourth worst indebted country in the world. Even your own document says that we are on the verge, if not little far away from, this debt trap and if our export falls or if anything untoward happens, we will definitely go into a debt trap. What about the debt trap internally? The same thing in happening because the interest charges are becoming more and more. Even for the last Plan, If you take the deficit of all the State Governemnts, the Central Government and the public sector undertakings to whom you really pass on the baby, it will come to 10 per cent of the GDP. It will not come to less than this.

The other area in which the things have advanced is the corruption. Corruption is the gravest enemy of planning. Hardly, I need to give details of all the scams and scandals which have taken place during the last few years. Hardly, I need to tell you that today the black money is flowing like anything and all that the Government is doing is to tempt the people to have a Voluntary Disclosure Scheme so that they may again go to the vicious circle of creating more black money. That is the only technique that we know of for plugging this black money. Of course, if you take the factor cost – I do not want to go into technicality – the fact remains that more than Rs. four lakh crore of black money is flowing in this country.

Now, I would come to the social scene. I will take education. What is our Directive Principle ? It is that within 10 years, we will have primary education for all. Many times we have heard, when the Five Year Plan was introduced in this House, that they would do this or they would do that. But today, we have the highest number of illiterates in this world. Even our Minister of Human Resource Development says that the country has been betrayed in the field of education. The figures of other developing countries are better. Even Burma and Ceylon have done much better than we have done.

I remember very well that these types of vast claims were made by what was called the New Education Policy in 1986. I was the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir at that time. I remember that every person come there for a conference of discuss the New Education Policy and find out new ways and said what great moment of history had come that we were going to have an education revolution in this country! They specially chose Kashmir for the reasons you know. I, the poor fellow, had to go to inaugurate and speak at every function. I heard brilliant speeches that the moment in history had come and we would have this and that. Where is that moment of history today ? Where is that Education Policy of 1986 for which we talked so much as we are talking now of our Plan objectives and other things ? Today also, 50 per cent of the people are absolutely illiterate. What is your own

[Shri Jag Mohan]

Census figure ? There is no mention of all these things in your Plan Document. Of the 461 districts reported in 1991 Census, 136 have female literacy rate below 20 per cent. These are the Census figures.

What would be the fate of Kasturba Shiksha Yojana which you are talking about ? How are you going to tackle all these major problems ? You said that you would make available an amount of about Rs. 2500 crore for education. You can make the allocation, but will it have a dent ? The money is not the problem, but whether you have got the implementation will, whether you can actually deliver the goods at the site, that is the issue. You may frame the Paper. I know that in Kashmir, during Governor's Rule, practically all village children went to school. Your Paper is all right, your allocation is all right, but you will not find any teacher there, you will not find any school there, you will find only meeting places and the school will be closed for 20 days in a month due to rain because the roof will be leaking and everybody will be on a common holiday. Let us not go by that factor. I will not like to go into those details. The money has been provided, but actually whether the school is running and whether anybody is getting education or not, that is the issue. That is where we are lacking and we have lagged behind.

What is the fate of our children ? Nobody can disclaim now that we have the highest number of child labourers and beggars in the world. What will be our position in the next few years and by 2000 A.D. ? We have the highest number of child labourers, we have the highest rate of illiteracy and we have the highest number of AIDS patients. All these 'highest' will be ours and we say that we have been doing effective planning for the last so many Plans ! But this is a very said picture.

I now turn to the subject of health. Is it true that 70 per cent of our people do not have proper access to health facilities even now ? If you take the percentage of the GDP, India's share on health is one of the lowest in the world and that is even lower than the Sub-Sahara Africa. That is what the World Health Organisation is saying. But you are spending only one per cent of the GDP when you are required to spend five per cent of the GDP on health.

Then, you spoke of unemployment and you yourself conceded that the unemployment figures have increased. The figure says that 125 million job seekers are going to enter into the market in the next 15 years. How are you going to account for them ? I really do not know how you are going to do that.

Now, look at the figures which you have quoted about reform and growth. What is more important is the quality of growth and if the quality of growth creates lopsidedness, then it is no growth. It is counter-productive. You may have it in your statistics, but it will actually not be there. You have a lopsided development now, because you see a lot of cars on the road, but there is no money to expand the road. There is no money with the local bodies. You spoke of cooperative federalism and of the need to revive the local bodies both at the village level and at the district level. Almost all the local bodies are bankrupt now. They do not have money. They only pay for their staff. They cannot do any developmental work. As a result of that, you have got the Clelo cars coming now, but the roads are full of potholes.

Today, you are talking of reform, opening up of the economy and competition with the world market and so on. But the average time taken by a truck is double as compared to other countries. How can you compete with them when your transport moves at half the speed of the world average ? Can you really compete with them ? You may give excise duty reliefs and all that, but what about these bottlenecks ? What about the infrastructure famine that you have created in this country ?

You spoke of the power sector and very magnanimously you agreed that you have not done well in the power sector. But let me give a little more details. It is really agonising that 85,000 MW was what was needed at the beginning of the Eighth Five year Plan. Since resource was not there, some special committee was formed. It said that a minimum of 45,000 MW was required. Then, even that was not there. Ultimately, it was reduced and it came down to 31,000 MW.

That is what the Minister provided in the Eighth Five year Plan. What is the achievement ? Nowhere will you find any mention of them. Your achievement is not even 16,000 Megawatt. You have not achieved 50 per cent. We find that there is darkness even in noon in most of the cities. But what is the reform period output ? He is not able to produce even 50 per cent of what in intended to achieve in the Eighth Five year Plan. I am not talking of any other period; I am talking of the reform period. This brings me to the basic issue that it is a superficial, casual and callous approach in one way. It is an approach of wishful thinking only. How is it that with all the reform talks, he has a mindset which cannot execute even 50 per cent in the most important sector ? He says that he is expecting private sector to come. What about the mid-term appraisal? Could he not appraise it in the middle ? If the private sector was not coming, could he not fill in the gap somewhere else ? I know that Delhi had to get 450 megawatt during the Eighth Five Year Plan from the Central projects, but no a single megawatt has been given to it because he has not executed any project from which the electricity had to come. Nobody in this nation knows what is the effective output of his machinery. The reform is not economic reform along even if I concede for a moment that it can yield beneficial results. It cannot, in my view. He will ultimately land in a much greater trouble then he was in earlier.

But in 1991 came the crisis and he went to another bandwagon. I mean that the prescription was given by the IMF and you followed it. But we took no other action. True reform is not confined to economic reform only. He cannot have administrative reforms and economic reforms without first reforming the mind of India, without first changing the attitude of India. After six years to reform, I ask him whether the work culture in our offices has changed, whether we have become more dynamic, whether we have become more dedicated, whether we have become more honest and truthful. The answer is obvious that he cannot, by this superficial reform, create a new country. His problems are formidable. What his is doing is that suffering from cancer and taking small tablets here and there, he says now the problem is solved.

The issue is that even with regard to growth he is talking about, he actually has negative results. For example, there is a large problem created in our cities about environment. Delhi itself in 1982 was the most beautiful town and became an envy during the Asiad. Today, it has got the dubious distinction of being the fourth worst-polluted city in the world. Why ? It is because of the lopsided development. It is because he is now putting everything in the lap of Delhi and are putting all the fumes and other things in Delhi and not doing anything which could have helped in correcting the situation.

Now, let me given you a small figure which will tell you what is the quality of this growth, what is happening because of this bad and degraded environment. These are the figures of the World Bank. Due to environmental degradation, about 30,000 premature deaths and 1.7 crore admissions in respiratory hospitals are taking place in India, meaning thereby they need not have gone to hospital if this environment had been all right. It cannot be. Then, there are 120 crore restricted work-days. People are not able to do their job and have to remain on restricted or some other holiday because they are sick and cannot perform their duty. It will further slow down the productivity.

Now, may I tell the Minister that what should have been done ? He should also consider one basic point. When Pt. Nehru initiated this programme of planning, he talked of the temples of development and he talked of so many things. He said that we want to have an India which is mighty in thought, mighty in deed, mighty in culture and mighty in service to humanity. I would place before this hon. House and ask why have we become mighty in corruption, why we have become mighty in callousness, why we have mighty in criminalisation of politics and politicisation of crime ? Why have we become so ? Real planning means vision – vision of a nation. It is the civilisational vision and it is a cultural vision.

We talked of the destiny of the nation that we had tryst with destiny. But we never defined what our destiny should be. We never defined what type of civilisation we want to build, what type of base we want to create and what type of values we want to nourish. Instead of saving our heritage which was rooted in the cultural contentment, compassion and constructivity, we created a culture of corruption, callousness and confusion. It is because we remained superficial, shallow, shaft and selfish. Why ? It is because we never looked deep into the problem. What we should have done in 1947 was to really find out what over civilisation meant. If he asks me what is the special attribute of India, it was the attribute of power of the Indian mind. If he asks me what is the special attribute of America, I will call it is the enterprise. If he asks what is the special attribute of Germans, I will say it is hard work in organisational ability; what is the special attribute of Japanese, it is the cooperative spirit of civilisation, what is the attribute of Britishers, it is balancing and what is really the Indian strength, its strength is rooted in the power of the Indian mind.

I am not talking of today's mind or yesterday's mind. I am talking of the mind which produced one of the greatest civilisations on Earth. It was this power of mind which was appreciated and talked about even by Will Durante. What did he say ? He said that India is the mother of all civilisations. It has produced all ideas which have come into this world. Similar were the words given by Max Mueller. What do you see even in our won vision *Bhagwat Geeta* ? It is the power of the Indian and – the searching question that *Arjuna* asked mind the philosophical insightful reply which Lord Krishna gave. What do they show ? They

[Shri Jag Mohan]

show the power of the mind and its creative ability. We created a nobility of temper, we created an idea of contentment and compassion, idea of balance and harmony and idea of a *karmayogi,* a selfless action and resolute practicability. It was the great asset of our civilisation, that was our cultural value and that was our civilisational value.

In 1947 did we create that nobility of temper or worked towards that goal and worked and created a powerful mind of India, and did become more constructive and creative? Instead of creating a model of our own, we have become imitative. Yesterday, we followed one model and today we follow another model.

We had that creative capacity, but we surrendered that creative capacity, We never tended towards that creative capacity. We could have created a powerful mind, thought of our own problems in our own way, and come out with something very constructive and creative. Today, we are again grouping in the darkness, going this side of that side. This is the real problem of Indian planning that unless you create a new value system, unless you create a new attitudinal system, unless you create that attitude of what I call *tyaga, Tapasya and Karmayogi,* and unless you have balance, harmony and dynamic reality, you will not be able to solve any of your problems. You may bring money, but that money will be pilfered away. That always happens. Why is there such a sad picture as we see today ? It is because we have not looked into the real roots and solved the problem from the roots. Unless we do that, we will stumble from one plan to another. We will make a rosy picture; we will say that we are going to do this or that, but poverty will remain.

In the morning, we were discussing about the blindness. It is the mental blindness that we are suffering from. If you travel in any railway train in the morning, you will see the vast open defecated ground, and those who have eyes can see how much progress India has made. All the dengues and all the diseases that we are creating, we never apply our mind to that. We say that we have applied our minds; we have given Rs. 250 crore or Rs. 350 crore for the slum upgradation etc. Please go to any of the slums and you will see the reality of the picture that all the slums are multiplying at three times the rate our population is growing.

- Now, we have also started this affordable price and affordable housing and so on. Could you give me the name of one single builder, who has built a house for the slum dwellers in the last six years ? Could you give me the name of one locality ? There is nothing that has been done. There is no water, there is no sewer, with the result that you are creating social tensions. Ultimately, whatever little you can achieve through planning will be negated through these social tensions.

What about your tools of administration ? We have completely blunted those tools. We have created so much of demoralisation amongst our services, there is so much of confusion in our services. Where are the tools which can deliver the goods ? Today, X or Y or Z party may rule, but if the tools do not exist, if the tools have become blunt, then you cannot achieve anything. Today, we have destroyed the public administration. We have completely atrophied it. Everybody is working in a spiritual vacuum, in an ideological vacuum, and everybody is working for himself or herself. The result will be that you cannot execute anything. The result will be that there is no execution and implementation at all.

If you permit me, I will read in conclusion a small portion from my own article.

> "The formidable challenge that India faces on many fronts should have prompted it to do some serious introspection; draw up proper lesson from planning and implementation infirmities of the previous plans; bring a creative and constructive mind to task; invoke a new commitment and new inspiration and provide a new springboard to the nation to the jump into the Twenty-first Century to enable it to build a great India with the foundation dug deep in ancient nobility of temper and with its edifice standing firmly on the shoulders of *karmayogis.*
>
> But what have the power wielders of the day done? They have merely fabricated to toy out of the old and rusted material and polished it. They think that a nation, like an immature child, could be deceived with it and made to forget its current pains and sufferings. Where will this ultimately lead to ? Clearly more disappointment, more cynicism and frustration awaits the nation with the spectre of fragmentation and neo-colonialism looming large before the country."

This is my way of looking at things. I, in all earnestness, suggest that some fundamental reorientation of our minds should take place.

Some fundamental reorientation of our thinking should take place. Otherwise, we will become a cog. It is all right planning is coming. We will just be like another Latin Amercian country. We should have the challenge before us. We should have thought at this moment whether we want to become another third rate country or we want to become a civilisation of our own which could be a role model for the other. This could evolve a style of our own, a design of our own life which is rooted in, what I say, the ancient ability of temper, harmony and those values of justice and truth. But now everybody has become reckless and is only making money and is running after power and that weakness has created all kinds of difficulties which we are facing today. There is all round breakdown and our structure has gone down, and our soul has gone. We have inflicted many wounds on our body, soul and mind and we have collected many rotten apples in our bags. You must get rid of all those rotten apples in your baggage. Then only we will be able to walk erect and with some fragrance. But I find our minds are totally barren. We are without any new ideas. We are just following many things from day to day. We will stumble. We have already stumbled because of a large number of wounds on our body and if we continue to do so, we will have more wounds and we will go into the 21st century with a very poor image. Toyanbee had said in 1952 that America will dominate the world after 50 years, but in 21st century it could be India which will do that. The first part of his prediction has come true. Amercia is dominating. The second part is not coming true. What he meant was not that we are going militarily to conquer or we are going to become dominant. What he meant was that the value system which India had projected, that culture of contentment and compassion, *Tyaga, Tapasya,* truth, justice, *Karma Yoga,* these values will be accepted by the world and the conqueror will be conquered by the conquered people themselves. That was his idea. But we have abandoned all our treasures and if I speak that languages, I will be branded only with some cliche and thrown away. Unless you create a new culture and a new inspiration and a new motivation, a new dedication and a new dynamism in this country, all our planning will result in the same failure, in fact, much greater failures then there have been in the past.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : We fully endorse what the hon. Member ended up with great civilisational strength which will be our great asset in achieving our objective. But, at the level of comparisons, since I think this is an issue which will come up again and again, I can give just now a very minor clarification. For example, take poverty. You mentioned Indonesia and India. I have been an expert advising Indonesia. I have no need to defend the past 50 years. After all, I become Minister for Planning only last June and I think the Approach Paper makes a very honest effort to give you a balance critique of the past. But take poverty. The norm for poverty of Indonesia is consumption of a hundred kilogrammes of rice. You mentioned that. If we take that norm, Indian poverty will be less than 20 per cent. But very coolly somebody will say that Indian poverty is about 40 per cent. We are very careful about our numbers. We have a long tradition. We defend our numbers. We are explicit on statistics. I thoroughly disagree with you when you said that the Planning Commission is forging numbers. It never does that, Mr. Jag Mohan. It is very clear. Take Science & Technology. I had a look into lot of details because I am concerned like you. I become Minister of Science & Technology last June and Science & Technology output has been going down. But it turns out that those people who generate these numbers insist that we should not make these comparisons across time.

Because the number of journals that are used differ. If you take the kind of criteria that you are saying about Switzerland or Spain, they have lost their share in output of scientific journals. So, my only submission is that when we make international comparisons, we should be a little careful. We are an open and free country. Our data is available. Comparisons are made with other countries which do not give information in this way. I can show you the data which shows that about many of the indicators that you mentioned – in fact, I will give it tomorrow; I do not want to do it right now – the improvement in India is quite high. Our levels at the beginning were low they may be lower than other countries, but our improvement rate is better. But that is a separate matter. I am only urging caution. When we take the forty or fifty years period and use different kinds of concepts, we tend to pass judgement on this. That is my point.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I would like to clarify one point. I will take on minute. My point is that I am only quoting the United Nations documents and the national document. If that yardstick is applicable on 'x' country, then it is also applicable on 'y' country. I am giving you the correct figure.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : That is not true. I am telling you about the poverty specification *(Interruptions).*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Is it not a fact that our scientific output has come down *vis-a-vis* the world output ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : No that is what I am telling you.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : You should have refuted that when I said that.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I am refuting it. I am telling you this. This is the point that I am making. If you take the comparisons of the same journals in 1980 and 1995 into account, the India's percentage has not gone down. But citation-wise, what they do is, they keep on changing the coverage. Then, you get very different numbers. Since you have made a specific question on that particular issue. I would tell you that you take that citation index of countries like Spain or Switzerland which end up having a smaller percentage. It is only if you compare the like-to-like that you get a better position. That is the first law of Statisitics . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Whatever you may say, my contention is very simple. I am taking the UNDP figure; I am taking the World Bank figure and I am taking the UENSO figure and that yardstick is applicable. I did not say that you are fudging the figure. I said that there is a monopolistic tendency. At on stage, you said that percentage-wise it is one . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAG : About poverty, you said it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you can reply to all these points when you reply to the debate.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Previously, poverty ratio was put down at 20. Now, it has become 40. It is given by the same Planning Commission. So, there is either one side which is manipulating the other side.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I must clarify this. This is a very specific charge of manipulation on the part of the Planning Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can deliberate it at length.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I think, on this issue, if you permit me, I will clarify. If you do not, I will keep quiet. This particular issue is a specific charge on the Planning Commission of manipulation. It is not true. There was a method of estimating poverty which came from a Task Force which I chaired in 1978. At the end of the 1980s, we felt that it needed to be reviewed. I was a Member of the Planning Commission. We set up the Lakadwala Committee. It gave a new method. Having set up an Expert Committee with some of the best people in India, we decided to follow that method. Both the methods show that the percentage of poverty has gone down. But the decline is very different. If you use the World Bank methods which you have used for the Sub-Saharan Africa and Indonesia, Indian poverty is less than 25 per cent. So, you have to be careful. The Planning Commission is not manipulating it. On both the methods, it has given the figures. We have to be very clear about that . . .*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : I will take just a minute because he has rigged away. The fact remains that only the present Planning Commission has come out with a different estimate. Let us face the facts. The Expert Committee's report was submitted a long time back. The Planning Commission was stubbornly refusing to accommodate those comments in their reports . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak at length when your turn comes. The Minister may clarify all these points when he is replying to the debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Madam, I will take only one minute . . .*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You get only ten seconds.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : I have gone across the Papers today only. It heads "India tops in poverty in South Asia". It is reported by the Asian Development Bank and it has been covered with all the figures over here. Therefore, I feel that the hon. Minister must agree to the figures which have nowadays appeared in the Papers and everywhere in the publications.

16.01 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not know whether it was a Donter or an exchange of pleasantries between the hon. Minister and the hon. shri Jag Mohan. I would not say in mournful members that we are in an arid zone. Let us not compare ourselves with other countries. Let us try of find out as to what we have done over the last fifty years. When we think of the last fifty years, when we think of the back drop, we can better appreciate the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan.

Sir I would call the Approach Paper just like a 100 Metre Sprinter standing at the starting block. He is ready to go. So, he must have the muscle power, lung power and the determination to touch the cord as the first person and get laureis. That is the back drop with which we should think of it. While thinking of the Approach Paper, we should think of the other back drop, *i.e.*, those Five Year Plans which we have gone through. We must have achieved something, otherwise this country would have remained in abject poverty over the last fifty years. We have not been in abject poverty. Whether the poverty stricken people are is 42 per cent or 52 per cent – it is immaterial – but the fact remains that we have improved a lot. The objective of the Plan is to improve the standard of living of the citizen. And, have we not achieved the objective ? I would only request you to kindly go through different Plans for which we had drawn up the objective long back.

Take the First Plan – 1951-56. It was a level playing field. We prepared the Plan for ourselves and in preparing the Plan, we thought of economic stability and elimination of food shortage. That was the basic necessity in those days. We did not have two morsels of food a day. So, the basic necessity at that time was to have some food. We prepared the field for playing and at the same time we thought of food for ourselves.

Take the Second Plan – 1956-61. The objective was 25 per cent increase in the national income by rapid industrialization. First, we started with agriculture; then, we came at industrialization because without industrialization, we could not have achieved the GDP or whatever you call the jargon, the hon. Minister may use it. We could not get it.

Then we come to the Third Plan. The objective was self-sustaining growth in increase of national income. Again, we had shortage of food. So, foodgrain production came up we thought of utilization of manpower resources. For the first time, we thought of garnering human resources. In the Third Plan we thought of it. And, in what manner have we down it ? Slowly and steadily, we had started achieving that objective.

Now, I come to the Fourth Plan. The Fourth Plan was delayed but the objective of it was promotion of agricultural production, rise in the standard of living. That was the basic objective. Any Plan must raise the standard of living of the people and promote equality and social justice. Here, we come to the social sector. In the Fourth Plan, after we got some food, and the basic minimum requirements, we started garnering human resources. then, we thought of social justice and equality.

In the Fifth Plan, we thought of amelioration of the people below the poverty line. When we found that there was object poverty, that there was lots of discrepancies between the haves and the have nots, then the planners thought of giving us some way to think of the people who were below the poverty line.

In the Sixth Plan, the planners thought of strengthening infrastructure in agricultural. We had been taking too remote types of agricultural methods and all those things. The planners through of having some better infrastructure in agriculture, industry and accelerated growth in investment. Investment was most important on which we have been thinking. In this Budget also, we thought of it. We must think of accelerated growth of investment, otherwise, the industries will not come up.

In the Seventh Plan, we thought of decentralization of the Plan. When we had amassed power in some people, when we had so many people at the top, when we had thought that the persons who are to take decisions are at the top only, it created lot of problems, then we thought of decentralization.

Now, I come to the Eighth Plan. I am giving only a brief story. the back drop of different Plans. The Eighth Plan, though it was delayed for some time because of political reasons, emphasized or reliance on domestic resources, generation of adequate employment and containment of population growth. The most important, again, are the population growth, universalization of primary education, safe drinking water, strengthening infrastructure, as he the Minister also said about the common minimum basic requirements at the social sector and combat the crisis in balance of payments and structural adjustments. These are most important.

We have not taken into consideration many facts. It is humanly not possible for the planners to consider all aspects. I would here quote a Shakesparean stanza from hamlet, one of the greatest tragedies of Shakespeare. "There are many things in earth and heaven, Horalion than are dreamt of in your philosophy". Whatever may be the thinking, whatever the planners may think, there would be some other factors which would govern, guide or create problems for achievement we cannot overcome those factors, however we may try. Now the planners thought of somethings. Between the planner and the executing agency there are many a slip between the cup and the lip. They have thought of something. They could not achieve it because of certain difficulties at the executing level or lethargy or sluggishness at the executing level.

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

I would tall you a simple story from my own experience. In 1992 I was a Range DIG. I was moving incognito to assess Naxalite strength in the border districts of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Since I was going incognito, nobody knew me. I came across a group of boys and girls in the age group of ten to fifteen years. They were selling mushrooms. I was quite interested in them. I have a weakness for mushrooms. So I went there to buy some. I saw a boy aged about fifteen years. In that village itself there was a big placard saying that the whole village had been made literate. So, I called the boy and asked him whether he had gone to school. He said, no. I asked him why, because in his village there was a big placard saying that the whole village had become literate. He called me aside and whispered in my ears. '*My Gaon Nayak,* that is, the village head, has told me that if anybody asks me whether I have become a literate, I should say that I am a literate'. That is the way on executing authority has created problems for us. Had we known all these facts, I think the planners could have thought of something else. And then there is jumbling up.

Again, I will tell a story because I like telling stories. I will tell a sixth century Sanskrit story. I think it will be of some interest to anybody, especially the educationist in Dr. Alagh and the planner in him. It is the story of three persons; a young men, rickety in character, but with a very bright brain and a good writer. He had a wife. Naturally, any young man can have a wife. The companion of that man was a hefty character, he was a wrestler, a tall man, black in colour and a happy-go-lucky type. They were two good friends. As we go now-a-days to picnics, they decided to go to the Banadurga Temple on the top of a hill for paying homage to Banadurga and at the same time to cook food, eat it and come back. All the three went there. In our Hindu pantheon, a Goddess is both benevolent and malevolent. A Kapalik, a sorcerer, came. At that time the girl – as usual there is a gender discrimination; I do not know whether anybody is here to take it up – was sent downhill to fetch water and cook food. These two young friends were gossiping. A Kapalik came and immediately beheaded these two persons, offered their blood to Banadurga, got some boon and went away. The girl came and found that both her husband and his friend were dead. She cried and prayed Banadurga that they should come to life. Again, the benevolent character of the Goddess came forward. She appeared and asked the girl as to what she wanted. The girl said that those two young men should come to life. She cried 'how do I go, my husband is there, my husband's friend is there'.

The Goddess said, 'All right, put the head and the trunk together and sprinkle water. They will come to life.' At that time, the lady thought, 'why do I not have a husband with a very beautiful and sharp brain and good, robust body !' So, she interchanged the trunk and the head.

A man is identified by his head and the husband was the man who had a shrinking head but with a brilliant mind and the body of the wrestler. The wrestler had a small body because his body was that of the writer.

They went back. The next morning itself, the husband woke up to write a story, a stanza or a *sloka* but he could not write because his hands were not allowing him to write. The other man went to the *akhada* for wrestling but his body would not allow him to do the exercises. Both of them became wretched characters. They did not know what to do.

The lady saw this and she thought, 'I have done a mistake; I must take them back and correct the mistake.' Again, all the three persons went to Vanadurga. She prayed to the Goddess, 'Reverred Madam, I have committed a mistake. Restore them to their former selves.' 'Then, the benevolent Vanadurga said, 'Chop their heads off, put them in their proper places and sprinkle water. They would come to life.' That is what she did.

The moral of that story is : Never mix things up.

If you mix up the various aspects, there cannot be proper planning; be that in education, be that in sports, be that in the Employment Assurance Scheme or RLEGP, NREP or JRY, whatever Jargons you may use. You have indicated all these for the amelioration of the rural poor. I will not go into the details. There is no point in going into the details.

We have been achieving something, maybe, just at the pace of a passenger train, not at the pace of an express train. But we are achieving something. The planners have indicated that they would be providing hundred days of work in the lean season, to the agricultural labourers. Have they been able to achieve that ? They have not been able to achieve that. It is an achievement of only nineteen days of work in a year. So, why do they not reduce it ?

Let us take for example the TPDS. They are thinking of giving 10 kg. of rice per person. So, it would be 120 kg. per year per person. our per capita production now is about 190 kgs. per year. I think, the exact figure is 189.65 kg or something like that. We have enough foodgrains but we are not able to give foodgrains to the poor because of a faulty system. In our economy, the faulty system could be that the roads are not goods or that the persons entrusted with the job are pilfering. These need correction at the peanning level.

Let us take corruption as a common factor. In a developing economy, corruption is bound to stem up. We cannot be hyporats saying, 'We are all honest and tomorrow everybody will be honest.' Taking corruption as a common factor, let us think how the public distribution system could be streamlined in a better manner so that at least hundred to 120 kg. of rice or wheat could be given to the poor. We are now giving them only about 90 kg.

This year the planners are thinking to introducing a better type of Employment Assurance Scheme in all the blocks. They covered about 2300 blocks in the Eighth Plan. They are thinking of spreading it and going into all the blocks. At the same time, in the Employment Assurance Scheme, they are thinking of subsidising rice by one more rupee. This means, they are putting more subsidising rice. As I said, the moral of the story of the writer and the wrestler is, 'do not jumble up things up'. The planners should think in a very clear manner. These should be a beacon light indicating, 'You should do only this and no further.'

Let us take for example the JRY or the Indira Awas Yojana. There is a lot of corruptions in these scheme. I know about many cases where a poor man or even a women has to pay Rs. 1,00 or Rs. 1,500 for an Indira Awas.

A petty politician or a petty bureaucrat at the block level takes money and you cannot avoid it. Within that framework, let us try to give some shelter to the needy – whether it is JRY or IAY or anything else. Let it be a compact thing. With so many things coming up, it will be very difficult to achieve our goal. As I said in the beginning, we are at the starting block. What we require next is a very strong motor power. How do you get the motor power? For this, we must think of investment. At present We have a revenue deficit of 2.1 per cent.

The household savings have gone down. I would not go into the statistics; the Hon'ble Minister knows better then me. The household savings have gone down. We have lots of subsidies in different fields. Our balance of payment position may be goods today. But it may be bad tomorrow. There is production shrinkage, in Oil pool subsidy has gone up beyond Rs 20,000 crore or Rs. 30,00 crore now. How do you reconcile the fiscal deficit ? When we think of the Plan, we think of the first year of the Plan or the Annual plan now. We must think of another four years. How do we go about it and get the require funds.

For the sustainability of a Plan, there are certain parameters. What are they ? We must control population. This is the first thing, Here, we should not think about other countries like looking into what is their population and other things. In our country. We must think so to how we can contain population. When I was a school student, the population of this country was 35 crores or 40 crores. Now it has gone up to 95 crores. Interestingly there is no shortage of food.

There is a Biblical saying, "God has created birds' he has given food to them; but he does not throw it into their nests." You must get it by endeavour. Like the bird collect it, we must get it. We must get better agricultural production. That is the important parameter for sustainability of any Plan or any development.

Then the third is the natural resources management. How do you do it ? The Approach Proper has dealt, in detail, with the natural resources management. The Planners have tried to wriggle out of the population issue, in a way; and the hon. Minister has given a brilliant analysis of technology and also about the integration of regions.

Long back, I was attending a seminar as a senior officer in the National Police Training Academy. A Professor from Punjab who had taken over as Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University had come to the Academy. At that time, he told us, "Young men, you can think that in another three or four or five years' time, Punjab will be at boiling point; Punjab will be like Germany, with lots of advancement, and other States will be lagging behind; and there will be trouble in Punjab." He was an economist; I forget his name now. What he said in those days – that is, in 1975 or 1976 – came true within five or six years.

So, the integration of regions should be thought of by different methods – by transport, by communications, by economic development of the downtrodden of that area, etc. So many other things have to be taken into account and particular stress has to be put in the Ninth Plan. In view of this, how can you do the integration of the regions? We must think about it.

Then, there is the aspect of fiscal imperatives. How to come to it ? It is a good thing that they have introduced

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

a presumptive income tax. In this Budget. It has been introduced. I do not know, how far it will be successful. It is for the Planners to decide in what manner it can be successful. If you broaden the base, If you have a better type of tax base and all that, then the fiscal deficit would come down. Most importantly, to overcome the fiscal deficit, the share of the States in the plan is a necessity.

In the Planning sector, we have 80 per cent from the Central sector and 20 per cent from the State sector. But the share of the States is going down. In the Eighth Plan, it was thought that the State share would be around 41 per cent, but it came down to 35.6 per cent. Some such statistics are available. It may be one or two per cent here and there. If the share of the State goes down, what will happen ? We will not achieve the targets in agriculture, basic minimums services, health, education and electricity. Then the plan will not achieve its targets.

So far as education is concerned, I would like to say that education has grown like a big tree with lots of unnecessary creepers around. The higher education has to be slashed, pruned or cut, then only we can have better education. The universal elementary education requires a thorough thinking. The training of the trainers at the district levels has failed. This is what C&AG has said. Since the report is not available, I will not go into this. The C&AG has very clearly said that there is no training of teachers at the district level. Whatever money you give is going down the drain. So, education has to be thought of in a very very proper manner.

You have thought of universal elementary education. You have provided mid-day meal. The target was that 7.5 crore students will come to the schools but only 5.71 crore have come. Why ? Let us ask ourselves. The children are being given some other work by the parents either there is child labour or there is no motivation.

The families who are below the poverty line are not able to send their children to schools. So, we must think of some other way. We must plan in some other way by which the children – where we fall by 1.5 crore – should go to schools.

Under the Mid-day Meal scheme, do not give food stuffs to the families. It will not serve any purpose food should be cooked in the schools. I have seen in my State, when the young children are served the food, they take the food outside the gate and share it with their young brother or sister. This is why in Orissa there is no death in spite of the drought because the young children share their food. You may give more food during the Mid-Day Meal programme and this should be planned properly.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : What about Kalahandi ?

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : It is wrong to say that people have died there.

So, give more food to them. If you give the Mid-Day Meal in a better manner, the students will come and this 1.5 crore deficit will go.

In the education sector, as I said and I repeat, you must slash down higher education. It has almost become a profitable machinery of thing for some vested interests.

SHRI A.C. JOS (idukki) : It has become an industry.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : Yes, It has become an industry.

I again go back to the sustainability of the planning process. I have come to revitalisation of the cooperative sectors. Persons have to be put into use. The NGOs, the people who must have a share in different aspects of development process, should be brought to the fore. They have the experience. People in village have experience. They have some or the other experience, whether they are digging a village pond or digging a well or thinking of education and all that. So, a cooperative aspect has to be brought, planning.

As we have already discussed, the basic inputs in agriculture are irrigation, fertilisers and credit flow for small and marginal farmers. I will not go into irrigation and fertilizers because you know all the details and I think this has been hinted at by the hon. Minister. The credit flow for small and marginal farmers is not in a proper manner, is not appropriate. It takes a lot of time for the small and medium farmers to go to the bank or to other coporated bodies to get some money for buying implements, fertilisers, seeds or bettering small types or irrigation in his own way, or having a small harvesting structure for a particular period. There are people who have small harvesting structures at a particular period. It may get washed away after some time but that helps them. So, when we are thinking of inputs, we must think of giving credit flow to these persons.

I now come to the downtrodden, whether they are the minorities or the women. We have been thinking much of the 81st Constitution amendment. We have not come to any solution yet. In Sanskrit it is called *Aranyarodhan,* crying in the wilderness. Let them not cry in wilderness in the villages. Women should be empowered.

They should have a better say in the society. If we do not empower a women, there would be malnutrition. And the child born to that woman will be of less weight. There is some disparity in the family itself. We know many such families where the girl child does not get proper food, where she is the last person to get food and sometimes may not get vegetables at all. It is happening now.; it was happening earlier. Let us not deny it. Let us not much bother as to what is happening in other countries. Let us think of ourselves. Let us think in a proper manner as to how we can gallop ahead to give proper status to women and the downtrodden.

Last but not least, we have achieved some success in industry. But the success is not matching to the growth the population and other ancillary matter. So, we must lay more stress on industry. If we do not lay more stress on industry, we will not be able to do anything.

The Approach Paper has given nine points on the shortcomings or the difficulties that the Plan has been facing. If we can look into these things carefully, there will not be any difficulty in implementation. I am not painting a rosy picture. The hon. Minister has painted a bright and rosy picture and hon. Shri Jag Mohan has painted a very dark picture. I will paint only a brown picture and the brown picture is that we must come together. The planners must be a little realistic in their approach. They should go to the people and see as to what is happening in the field.

Between the planner and the executing agency there is a generation gap. You are not the executing authority at the block level. You might have been the executing authority at the block level earlier. You have passed that time. After forty years. How do you know what people think? If you send me to a district now, I will be a total failure as a Superintendent of Police. I cannot do anything there. If you make me an officer-in-charge of a police station, I will be an uttar failure because I had taken training as officer-in-charge of police station only some thirty years before. So, planners should see as to what is happening at the cutting-edge level, at the block level, This has to be taken into account before you think of any proper planning.

With these words, I would say that the approach is good. You have come to the starting blocks. Let us get to the first prize. Let us touch the tape in a proper manner by proper moto poser in shape of investment, motivation and involvement.

SHRI SUDHIAR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five year Plan which has been submitted by the Planning Commission.

Planning is a political process of a society for the development of all its components. It is an instrument for the arrangement of resources of the society to advance development to the greatest extent possible. The process also involves distribution of produce in the basic fashion desired by the planners. The objective of the planning is that the State shall try to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting, as efficiently as it may, the social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform involve all the institutions of national life.

On the basis of this approach, I emphasize here, the word, 'people'. I mean by 'people', all the people of a country and not those people who are capable of protecting themselves, who are in a position to amass wealth because they have their in-built capability which can save them from all dangers. So, the masses of the people are included. The Scheduled caste people, the Scheduled tribe people, other backward communities and minorities are taken together when we approach a Plan.

Sir, it has bene said that the Plan has to do justice to these people whom I have referred to; justice, social, economic and political. But have we actually meted out justice to these people who really need the help of the State ? Without the State's intervention, these people cannot maintain their minimum integrity insofar as the basic minimum needs are concerned. So, what have we learnt from the Eighth Five Plan and the Plans before that Plan? In the Eighth Five Year Plan, priority was given to employment generation, containment of population growth, universalisation of primary education, safe drinking water, achievement of self-sufficiency in food and production of surpluses for exports, strengthening of infrastructure to sustain growth. If we analyses these things or it we take up one by one, then we will find that still there are more than 50 per cent people who are illiterate. If is, today, said that half of the total population of the illiterate on the earth live in India. So, whatever attempts have been made, have been made at the behest of some planners, some Philo-

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

sophers and some social scientists. But actually the real benefit has not accrued to the people who deserved it.

So, the objective of the Ninth Plan has been set out. The National Development Council met in January, 1997. They were unanimous in giving importance to the fact that the GDP growth rate should be seven per cent and the growth rate in agriculture should be 4.5 per cent per annum.

Again, the United Front has evolved a Common Minimum Programme and on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme and the Chief Ministers' Conference gave some suggestions.

The other Chief Ministers also have given some suggestions. On the basis of those suggestion and the unanimous proposal of the National Development Council, the Ninth Five year Plan has to be emphasised on nine items. They have also said that the employment generation should be given the first priority. A stable price structure should be maintained. Nutritional security for all should be provided in the Plan. Safe drinking water, primary health care, opportunity for universal primary education, shelter, and connectivity development should be given priority.

Further, control of population, environmental security through mobilisation and participation of people at all levels have also been given priority. Empowerment of women, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities, and other backward communities have also been given priority. Development of Panchayati Raj throughout the country has been stressed upon. Efforts of self-reliance would also be made.

Sir, let me firs analyses the formulations, and why the formulations should he given priority. Firstly, priority for agricultural and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradicating poverty has been stressed. Productive employment requires purchasing power to increase. It is because without increasing the purchasing power of the rural areas, and the people of the urban areas, the internal market cannot be expanded and if the internal market is not expanded, then we have to depend, to a great extent, upon the markets of other countries. But with the infrastructure, with the old technology, and with the other factors as are presently existing in India, we cannot compete with the highly industrialised States. Therefore, we shall not be in a position to capture the markets of others. So, we have to increase the purchasing power of our people. The big landlords should be divested of the land holdings. It is because the lands holdings lead to mass poverty. A vast chunk of land is there. It cannot be fruitfully utilised unless by big landlords are divested of their property rights by having a ceiling on property. Then only the poor people would be in a position to have lands for cultivation purposes.

I, therefore, suggest that land reform measures should be adopted. Although it has been pointed out in the Plan documents that land reforms should be taken up, we find, there is no word of total land reforms in the Paper. In our country, we find, big landlords are holding big areas of land. If those lands cannot be divested and distributed among the poor people, we cannot achieve the target. So, internal expansion of market also depends upon the land divestment and distribution.

Small and collage industry should also be developed. Areas of investment in agriculture should be clearly analysed and investment quantum should also be increased. It has been said that the growth rate of the economy with stable prices will be accelerated. But we find that the Government may come forward to increase the prices of petroleum products which would give rise to a chain reaction in the price field. The Government should take care of this properly. Otherwise increasing price effects will hit the people too much. For holding the price line stable, the Government should come forward to fix up the prices of minimum required goods by the people. If the prices of at least those essential commodities are fixed, then the people will be in a position to have those minimum needed articles at the fixed prices. Economic processes should also be manoeuvred in such a way that the prices do not go beyond the reach of the common people.

I would point out that there exist regional disparities and these regional disparities exist because of the handling of the economic affairs by the Centre in a manner which does not favour removal of the regional imbalances. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take suitable economic measures so that the regional imbalances are removed.

Sir, it has been said that the basic minimum services of safe drinking water will be provided. This programme has been in operation since the previous Government took these measures. But the allotment of funds in these sectors has not been properly utilised in some states and though some other States have utilised them properly but the quantum was so poor that they could not cope with the requirement. So, I would urge upon the Government to take into consideration the fact that the State Governments which suffer from financial limitation and the states which are actually willing to implement the projects sincerely should be provided with necessary funds for overcoming this situation. There are so many villages which are derived of the drinking water facility. Those villages should be taken into account properly and they should be provided with adequate drinking water.

Sir, people in general and especially the people in rural areas are not aware of the minimum health facilities. There should be a plan and emphasis should be given to this Plan that the minimum health facilities are provided to the rural people. It has been stated that universal primary education should be given priority. I also support it because without universal education, health consciousness cannot be grown and cannot be preserved. People's health care cannot be taken proper care of, if the masses are deprived of the basic minimum education.

Many people, especially in the rural areas are deprived of shelter. Even in the urban areas, there are poor people who live on the footpaths and in the streets. They are deprived of the minimum shelter. So the Government should come forward and make an accurate estimate of the shelterless people, both in the rural as well as urban areas, so that at least they can be given some roof on their heads to live, at least at night.

Furthermore, the village in the rural areas are far flung. They are not connected by roads and there are many villages which cannot communicate with other villages of the outside world when there is a crisis like floods, etc. So we should see that connectivity and expansion of the connectively, especially in the rural areas should be given priority.

I would urge upon the Government that whether it is production or whether it is health care, etc. the benefit may be given to the people.

The population growth or the population explosion rate is so high that the fruits of production made so laboriously are devoured by them. So, the basic population growth can be minimised if the basic education is given to the masses, if they are properly educated about their health hazards, if the poverty is eradicated in the rural and urban areas and if they are provided with employment opportunities. And for this purpose, if a larger provision of funds is made for their benefit, then the population explosion growth can be reduced. Furthermore, if we wish to make the people conscious of the population growth danger, then they have to be given education properly so that they may be conscious of the population growth danger.

It as been said that the priority would be given for the empowerment of women. It is a goods suggestion. Any they have rightly stressed the point. We also vehemently support it. For the purpose of empowerment of women we have to see that the representation of women in the Legislatures at least should be ensured. In West Bengal, in the Panchayat systems, women are represented at a particular rate.

Sir, it has been stated in the Plan document that the participation of people is necessary. How will they make it obligatory ? We want that the participation at the grass root level should also be ensured. Not only that but we also want that the Plan should be prepared from below and not from above. The present system is that the Plan is prepared by the people from above and it is imposed upon the people at the grassroot level. This does not match with the requirement of the people. So, I think, the priority should be given to making of the Plans by the grassroot people so that they can participate in the implementation of these Plans effectively.

It has been stated that self-reliance would be given the priority. How can this proposal be implemented ? This proposal can be implemented effectively if we develop technology.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Sir, I am coming to the conclusion.

Technology development, as has been done in other countries, should be made here also. I have already mentioned that internal market expansion is necessary for this purpose. More sustainable advantages should be given to the middle-class people so that they can save more for the purpose of investment in different areas. At least for the purpose of investment in industry and agriculture, various taxes should not have been imposed on the weaker sections of the people. Moreover, development of horticulture, dairying and animal husbandry should also be given top priority. For the purpose of rural development, Panchayat Raj Institutions should be developed and we have been insisting on this proposal for a long time. Although some states have been aware of this and the

[Shri Sudhir Giri]

Constitution itself has been amended suitably so that these States do justice to the people by resorting to Panchayat elections and Panchayat Raj system, there are many States which lag behind.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : I am concluding. Many States have been lagging behind.

As regards rural development, I would insist that besides the Panchayat Raj institutions, the IRDP should also be given priority. Instead of individual approach, group approaches are necessary. Monitoring system should also be strengthened.

As regards TRYSEM, I would say that the poor's skill would be enhanced by this Scheme but credit should also flow to them at easy conditions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your sea now.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Marketing facilities should also be extended. Group Insurance Scheme should also be provided to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sudhir Giri, please give the floor to other speakers also.

SHRI SUDHIAR GIRI : Further, wasteland development, programmes should be forcefully implemented. The poor people should be given the share of the development of wasteland because there are so much of wasteland in the country that if the poor people are given the share of it, they will definitely develop these lands. Also, agrarian poverty will come down and production in agriculture would increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is your last sentence.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Sir, I am going to conclude. This is my last paragraph.

I have already mentioned about land reform measures, but one point I have left behind, that is, the means of eradicating poverty, removing class barrier, terminating caste barrier and uplifting humanity. Total land reforms should be adhered to achieve all these objectives. For this purpose, ceiling laws should be there.

17.00 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

Those who are land tillers and *barghadars*, should be given credit on the basis of their *patta* which they have got from the Land Development Authority or the Government. Records should be prepared.

Furthermore, as regards the industrial production, I would say that the industrial development should be pro-people. I mean to say that such industries should be developed which are not merely export-oriented, but which are pro-people oriented because people can get employment, if such industries are developed. For this purpose, competitiveness should also be there and village and small-scale industries should be given much importance. Scientific and technological development should also be there and industrial research and development programmes should be implemented with due respect.

I would like to make another two points and then I will conclude my speech. For the purpose of urban infrastructure, there is a proposal that private companies may be invited in this field . . .*(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sudhir Giri, please conclude because there are a number of other speakers who want to speak and the time now is very limited.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : I would say only two sentence. As far as the urban development is concerned, urban infrastructure should be made and given priority. Slum improvement measures are to be taken immediately and water supply scheme should also be enforced.

Further, in our rural areas, there are tubewells which have been turned into saline water. I would, therefore suggest that the Government should take resort to the development programme in such a way that the saline water may be converted into sweet water. Those plans should be implemented without further delay.

With these few words, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. I think the time will be enough to cover the Ninth Five Year Plan in five years.

I am not going to paint a gloomy or a rosy picture because I am not an artist like the Planning Commission is. But I, being not even a good appreciative of art, am going to just look at the painting as it is put before us. I am not very charmed but rather alarmed by the situation as it is portrayed by the Ninth Plan Approach Paper.

We have been hearing for the last six years or rather a little more than that of New Economic Policy which has been ushered in our country. They are also thinking and talking about liberalisation and globalising our economy. Then, in that context, we are also vigorously following a process of planning. I would really like to know whether these two are compatible. What is the relevance of planning in this whole process in which they are asking all different types of forces to come in ? The market will determine the roles of various institutions as to what should be produced and at what price it should be sold. Then, that really brings us to this very question of the relevance of planning and in this modern thinking that the Government has ushered us into.

Sir, this relevance becomes more critical when we really appraise the last Five Year Plan, the Plan which incidentally coincided with the New Economic Policy that the previous Government talked about. The attainments of this Plan, I am sorry to say, are really very deplorable. In fact, nobody should really take any credit or should not be very happy about what has been really said in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

All the targets which were specified for infrastructure and social sectors have really fallen short of expectations. The inflation has increased in the same period. I think, the inflation has also helped the Planning Commission to portray a better picture of attainment of targets in certain areas.

The important issue that I think and Minister must tell us about is the relevance of planning and the role of State in the new economic policy, whether the State is going to play the role which it has played in the last 50 years in India and whether it is going to play the role of intervention. If the state intervention is going to be there, what is the role of market ? How the market forces and State intervention are going to work towards the common objective is something which I think the Government would like to enlighten us about. This in also an important year of planning. We had signed an agreement with the GATT and now with the World Trade Organisation. We have really agreed or certain commitments to these multilateral agencies and to various other countries. One of the commitments pertains to reduction of customs duty. Probably, if we are going to reduce customs duties over a period of time, then we will also have to reduce excise duties to keep our domestic industry alive. Of course, right now, they are reducing customs duties faster than reducing excise duties. It is a different question altogether. If we presume that we are going to reduce our customs duty to keep at par with our commitment and also reduce excise duties to keep our domestic industry alive, from where are we going to raise these resources that we are talking about ? On the one side, there is an international commitment given to WTO and on the other side, there is a requirement of raising massive resources to meet this new Plan target of the Ninth Five Year Plan. If fail to understand how he is going to work out these two things. I think that the Government must enlighten us on this issue, about how they are going to raise these massive resources keeping in conformity with our commitment to the WTO. There is hardly any reference to WTO in the Ninth Five Year Plan, But I think that the whole planning process has to be within the parameters of having agreed to do certain things within next five years' time.

Now, It is the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. This is the first Budget which has been presented to the Parliament. We have just passed the Finance Bill. We probably get a feeling, though it is not mentioned in so many words. That the Government is relying more on trickle-down effect rather than targeting a particular segment of the society. Now, we fell that the Government must do certain things at macro level and the trickle-down effect of that would be felt at the grass-root level and the poverty will be alleviated. There are so may things which are not in order which would be taken care of by the market forces themselves and the trickle-down effect itself will take care of it. But I think, this particular sort of a wishful thinking may not help us though it has helped Ms. Margaret Thatcher. Now, the followers of Ms. Margaret Thatcher had to lose elections after five years because the trickle-down effect has, probably, not helped the Government to reach the target that they were trying to reach.

One of the other areas which I think we are all alarmed about is the Government's fiscal management. We are talking about raising resources of a magnitude of not less than Rs. 2 lakh corore in the Five Year Plan period that has to go into it and of this, 8.9 per cent is going to come from the public sector itself. So, the public sector will have to put in about Rs. 6,63,000 crore of investment into the Plan. For the current year, our total interest obligations are 48 per cent of the Government's current income. The amount of about Rs. 1,45,000 crore is for our debt-servicing while our total gross revenues are about Rs. 1,65,000 crore. We are already reaching the level where there is hardly any amount left available for investment into other sectors-social and infrastructure sectors. From where we are going to find these massive resources that are necessary to go into this investment is something we must

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

know. It is probably an alarming situation that on the one side the Government has to reduce the excise duties and customs duties and on the other, the Government investment that has to go into it is also increasing at a very fast rate.

So, the total debt burden on the country today is in excess of Rs. 6,00,000 crore. The interest that we have just committed to pay is Rs. 68,000 crore and maybe, in the next two years' time the interest liability would be far in excess of what it is now, because the rate at which the Government is borrowing, as is mentioned in the Plan Document itself, is now increasing. The coupon rate of Government bonds is now in excess of 13 per cent. The old debt which was raised at five and six per cent, about 15 or 16 years ago now stands at a very high rate of interest. Even if you presume that the level of debt is not going to increase significantly, the interests burden itself will increase, because the Government is borrowing at a very high rate and that also brings us to a very serious feeling that all the investment that the Government is contemplating to put into the Plan, whether it will be possible and wether the resources may be available with the Government or not.

Sir, one area which is of great concern to the planners as well as to the Government and probably for everybody is: how are we going to make these investments into infrastructure. The Common Minimum Programme is talking about $ 200 billion of investment that is necessary. There was one document of Planning which was prepared some years ago and it talks about $ 165 billion. The report of the Krishna Mohan Committee, which you had appointed, is estimating an investment that is necessary in the infrastructure sector even at higher rate.

Sir, let us take only one sector of it, the power. The former Power Minister was sitting here and he was telling me that this is one areas which concerns him. Probably, it not only concerns him, but concerns everybody else. According to the Planning Commission, the new capacity that we have to create during the next five years is 57,000 MW of power. As a thumb rule, an amount of about Rs. 4.5 crore per megawatt of power may be necessary. The amount that will be required to just go into power itself will be so huge that probably we may not have money left for doing anything else, if we decided only to create power which may not be feasible again.

The Krishna Mohan Committee's report talks about Rs. 5,40,000 crore that is necessary to go into power. So, are we really serious about the figures that we have mentioned here or are we just giving figures only for the sake of satisfying and creating a Plan Document ? Are we really going to attain all these targets ? The sheer magnitude to the figures is so mind-boggling that it really makes one feel whether it is an arithmetic exercise or a commitment to nation to create what has been really promised in this Plan Documents.

With the amount of power that we need to create, how are we going to fund it ? I know that there are so many independent power producers who have been invited to participate into this power programme. One of the Government's parameters for this is that not more than 40 per cent of the money required may be financed by the financial institutions in the country. That leaves them today to raise 60 per cent of the money from other then loans from institutions. Are these producers capable of raising 60 per cent of this money from India, from the capital markets ? Are they capable of raising this money from overseas, from external commercial borrowings ? If the external commercial borrowings of this magnitude are going to take place, then what would happen to the Government's overall ceiling which they have introduced ? They have already put a cap on internal borrowings by saying as to how much the Government can raise at global level. So, how are we going to raise this much money ? How are these independent power producers going to be created and how is this funding going to take place ?

Sir, another point which, I think, the Minister would really tell us at the end when he is going to reply to this debate is: how are we going to create this much of power. This is one aspect. Then, the other aspect, that is, what is the price that the Government expects the consumers to pay for this power at the end of the creation of all this capacity, is something which we must know. According to some experts, it is feared that the price that the consumers may have to pay will be in excess of Rs. 10 per unit of power and this is because only 60 per cent of the users of power really pay for it now. The growing tendency of subsidising power, of taking it free for use of agriculture and for other uses is really putting a burden on some other users of power to pay that price.

In addition to that, now we are going to use naphtha as the base for so many of our power projects. The import price of it and the declining value of the rupee are going to make it more expensive for us to buy. So, probably we may have to buy power or the consumers may have to pay for power at the rate of Rs. 10 per unit which is something really very alarming.

I think the planning document must give some indication about what price the power will be available to the people, maybe four or five years from now or maybe after the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Sir, one important thing of which a mention was made by my illustrious colleague, Shri Jag Mohan is about the role of various institutions. So, I am talking about the institutions like the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. But within the executive, the various institutions which are supposed to carry this delivery mechanism, the production, the service to be delivered to various beneficiaries, are crumbling down. These institutions are becoming incapable of handling the huge task of rendering a quality service to the end users. How are we going to improve these institutions is something which the planning document should have dealt with. Though it is not the real part of planning as such, yet without it if that thing becomes corroded, probably at the end of it we may not get what we are really contemplating.

Sir, one issue which I think is a very sensitive one and which the Minister may not like me to repeat is pertaining to the collection of data and the validity of these date on which we rely upon. There are independent institutions. Let us take a reputed institution like CMI. I am sure you will definitely like to believe in what they have stated. The various data collecting agencies other than the Government come out with different statistics on the same issue. I do not want to repeat it. But take the figures on poverty. The methodology to ascertain poverty can be different but the very figures on which you rely upon and which are supplied by the different agencies cannot be different. So, for that we need to have an independent data collecting machinery which should have a status that is enjoyed by something like the Election Commission. That data should be audited periodically by some agency. That will be in conformity with your policy on bringing in transparency into the functioning of the Government. If you can really attain this, I think, you would have attained a lot. It is because in that case our entire data-collecting operation would be independent of the executive. Then we can always rely on it rather than saying that politicalisation of this issue is not desirable. I am not raising it on political grounds. I am trying to say that we must think of an independent data-collecting machinery which should be audited on a periodical basis by an independent; agency.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, may I clarify one point which is very important regarding data. I also happen to be the Minister of Statisitics. We have a National Sample Survey. Its Chairman carries the rank of a Minister of State. He is an independent expert. His name is Shri Praveen Visaria. He is one of the country's best demographers and has global reputation. We have an Advisory Committee on National Accounts. I was its Chairman earlier when I was the Vice-Chancellor of the JNU. As soon as I became the Minister, I resigned. Its present chairman is Shri Rakesh Mohan who is the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research. It consists of very distinguished people.

So, I would submit for your consideration that as far as the data is concerned, we have had some difficulties. But we are trying our level best to overcome them. We keep some of the highest professional experts as in charge. All our methodologies are explicit, transport and written. I have got the Government to approve a policy that any information that you want will be available either on computer file or whatever, first, of course, to Indian universities, and then anywhere in the world, maybe to the outsiders at a slightly higher price which will be dollar denominated. So, on this matter, I want to be very clear.I want to make it very clear as Minister of Planning that as long as I am there, we will keep on publishing their reports. When I was the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission, I published their reports. When I was the Chairman of the BICP, I published their reports. So, transparency is a very important issue and I fully agree with the hon. Member. If there are any concrete suggestions, please tell us. Differences can always be there. Take for example this year's national income. There is a method of estimating national income which is clear and transparent. But an estimate made at the beginning of the year can vary. In fact, now, we have joined the International Monetary Fund System for 23 countries. We are one of the selected countries in the world where quarterly estimates will be prepared.

Now, these things change all over the world. Even in the United States, an estimate of this year's income in the first quarter will be different, and it will be different in the second quarter. So, I would request the hon. Members to bear with our very strong statistical agencies. They are professional people. I fully support them in their autonomy. These organisations are headed by transparent groups with very high authority. Take for example, the National Sample Survey and the National Income Advisory Committee. But if there are any further concrete suggestions, I would always take them.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What the Member meant was that apart from the Government data collecting agencies, which I am sure, as you say, are very capable, whether you cross check the data with any private data collecting agencies. There will be some variation. How much variation do you accept ? Do you accept five or ten per cent variation ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : In all these, we have autonomous professional committees. That is what I mentioned. If you take the National Sample Survey, earlier, the Chairman of that body was Shri V.N. Dandekar. When I was the Director of Sardar Patel Institute, I was a member of it. I had nothing to do with the Government. Now, it is Shri Praveen Visaria, who is the Director of the Institute of Economic Growth. The Chairman of the National Income Advisory Committee to the Government and the CSO is the Director-General of the NCAER. He is a private person. Of course, the Government statistical agencies also track these other things. But all our top level statistical agencies have explicit and transparent methodologies. They are headed by professional advisory groups, chaired by some of India's great statisticians. This is a matter of fact. Beyond that, if there is something, then I can always look into It.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : For example, take urban poverty, According to the Lakkadwala Committee, the level of urban poverty is to the extent of 40 per cent. The point is that the Planning Commission should make up its mind about the criteria that it is going to adopt. The Planning Commission puts the figure of urban poverty at 18 per cent. There is a lot of different between 18 per cent and 40 per cent.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : The hon. Member is not fully informed on this. The Planning Commission has made up its mind on this.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : After how many years did the Planning Commission make up its mind ? When we make noise, then only it changes.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I can tell you that the Planning Commission took it very seriously, and within the last six months, we have taken a view on that. We have consulted expert bodies, and tabled it on the floor of the House. The Planning Commission has been discussing these methods earlier. I do not want to get into that. But the plain fact of the matter is that the Planning Commission has given you estimates by the new method.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Could you tell me when this Lakkadwala Committee Report was submitted ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : May I submit for your consideration that Shri Lakkadwala was very close to me. We worked in the same institute.

SHRI G.L. KANAUJIA : Please give the direct answer and do not say all these things.

[Translation]

You are praising yourself and not raising your point.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : You are giving wrong statement.

SHRI G.L. KANAUJIA : You are stating about yourself as to what you were and what not but you are not speaking to the point.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would not like you to start a discussion on this. I would request the Minister to please reserve his comments for his final reply.

[Translation]

Mr. Kanaujia, please sit down, you are consuming Mr. Prabhu's time.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I have given all the replies.

SHRI G.L. KANAUJIA : Please come out with reply.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : No. No, this will not be allowed.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhu, please carry on.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : In fact, we have the same perception on the same issue. What I was saying was that we have the finest persons available in the country, and Dr. Alagh is one of them to do such a job. In fact, they are doing a good job. What I am saying is that there has to be an independent data collecting machinery, which should be independent of the executive. They should have the status of an Election Commission or something like that. They should work independently on data collection and they should be audited separately so that there will be more reliance on the information that they collect. There may not be any political motivations in giving data like this. When we are globalising, why not have global standards in data collection ? This is the point which I wanted to make.

I would like to get from the Minister one small information. There have been some times in the past when, for some reasons or the other, there was no planning. The implementation of the Plans has to be deferred for several reasons. For some reason, there was no plan during that period. Did we go during that period or not ? If we did really grow during that period when there was no planning in India as such, at what rate did we grow ?

It is something which I would just like to have as a point of information to know the relevance of planning to this period.

The important point is about the cooperatives and the NGOs. We have always a Chapter on the cooperatives as a mechanism to bring about a change. The Eighth Five Year Plan unfortunately was only an exception. The Eighth Plan never even mentioned about the cooperative institution. We have been demanding it. All those who believe in cooperative federalism think that this is the best federal institution available in the country in which the members participate in the development of it directly. Are we really thinking about it because there is no mention of it unfortunately in this Plan document ? Are we really thinking about involving this large segment of cooperatives in this process of planning and development ? It is something which I would like to know. Our First Plan document which was prepared by Jawaharlal Nehru laid great stress on NGOs. I think he chose to be the President of Bharat Sevak Samaj and he created an institution to promote NGO culture in the country and he said that NGOs could bring about lot of development. Have we forgotton about NGOs now or are we going to give them their due share in the process of planning, is something which we will have to know.

One aspect is geograpghical development. Certain regional imbalances exist in our country. We have talked about North-East. But are we going to take a little different view than what is stated in the Plan document ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request you to think of winding up now.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Yes. Are we thinking about having a different approach to these imbalance because there are developed States ? If you go by Planning Commission's figures, Maharashtra happened to be a developed State. But there are certain districts and certain tehsils in the States which are more backward than probably some tehsils in Bihar. There are certain States which at State level, they may be developed. But are we thiking of taking a tehsil or a district as a unit and determine the backwardness and have different norms to backwardness in the next ten years period during the Ninth and Tenth Plans ? Then alone we will be able to bring about a sea change in the lives of these people who are even more backward than the so called backward States. Are you prepared to take an approach like this ?

I strongly demand that Government must have an approach to planning keeping tehsil as a unit or a district as a unit rather than taking the State as a unit.

Social sector investment which we are really talking about and of which we take tremendous credit for it, has incidentally gone down. In the last five year period, our investment in social sector has gone down. The medical and public health were required to be given 1.69 per cent in the Seventh Plan and 1.62 per cent in the Eighth Plan. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, during the time when we globalised ourselves, during the time when we wanted to change the lives of people, health and social sectors received less amount than the previous Five Year Plans. We wanted to change the design of the Plan by bringing about a new policy. But this has also happened that social sectors must receive their due share. I wanted to raise a very important point during the debate on the Finance Bill and on the Budget and that is that we are going to raise resources which are going to be eaten away by interest on principal for payment of loans. Social sectors are also crying for tremendous attention. Are we thinking of raising separate resources earmarked for applying only on social sectors ? Can you put up a tax the collection of which is to be used only on social sectors ? If you do not have a specific earmarked collection of taxes and revenues, we may not be able to target the social sectors as we should do. I think that is what we have to do in times to come. There is no mention unfortunately about how we are going to reduce the cost of administration in times of come. The looming danger of the Fifth Pay Commission, the demand for creation of new States, the smaller States which are necessary is there. How are you going to reduce the cost of administration at the Central level, the State level and at the Panchayat level is something which a Plan document should have addressed itself to. This is a very important issue. Unless we talk about it, we will not be able to solve many other important issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Wind up now, please.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Yes, Sir. Now, we are celebrating the 50th Year of India's Independence. I will be brief because I have to wind up. Unfortunately, i cannot still forget that I had a training as a Chartered Accountant. Can I request the hon. Minister as well as the Government as a whole to give us a Balance Sheet of our country's attainment in the last fifty years ? Can we make a Balance Sheet of our country's attainments ? Can we find out what are the physical assets that we created on the one side and make a value of them ? In fact, when Dr. Raja Chelliah happened to be the Advisor to the Finance Ministry, I had a discussion with him on this issue. I had asked him whether the Government would prepare such a Balance Sheet. It is because we want a transparent system of the holdings of Government. Can we think about it ? Can we really analyse what we have gained, what are the total liabilities and assets of the Government ? The Balance Sheet itself should be a starting point for introducing the Planning – may be for the Tenth Five Year Plan. Then alone we will be able to evaluate one Balance Sheet against the other one in respect of the five-year period. Then only you will be able to find out the attainments of this country.

There is one issue about which the Government shies away from talking because I understand their predicament. We want an investment to come into agriculture in a big way. At the same time, there are friends who want agricultural reforms in which the land now held by a few should be held by many. At the same time, to bring about better investment in agriculture, we also want corporatisation of agriculture. Corporatisation itself will pre-suppose not only fragmentation of land but probably there will be consolidation of the existing land in the hands of one corporate from many . . .*(Interruptions)* How are we going to reconcile to this demand of agricultural reforms on one side, land reforms on one side and on the other side the need to put in more corporatisation as a part of agricultural process to bring about better investment ? I think this is something which, again, you must be able to tell us. I always feel that there cannot be the models for development. Every country has to find out its own model. India has also to find out its own model. We have to have a model. We must have the model of China. We should be able to compare some social parameters of China with India and then we know about it. Though the population size is probably bigger than India yet regarding social sector development, China is better than what we have attained.

With these words, I conclude.

17.32 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Bauxite Mining

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House was supposed to take up at 5.30 p.m. the Half-an-Hour discussion by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. But, I think, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat has requested the Speaker for postponement and the Speaker has very kindly agreed to postpone the Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

After that, Shri K.P. Singh Deo is to raise a discussion on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Environment and Forests on 18.3.1997 to Unstarred Question No. 3630 regarding Bauxite Mining.

Shri K.P. Singh Deo to speak now.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir. at the outset, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this issue. This Half-an-Hour discussion was required because of the answer given to a very simple Unstarred Question, a very innocuous one. After making efforts for more than three months to get the Parliament Library to in turn get hold of this Report, I succeeded. There were a lot of media reports about people apprehending that the Upper Indravathy Multipurpose River Vally Project would be silted. In 1968, the Bachchawat Committee agreed to the transfer and diversion of water from the Krishna-Godavari Basin. Four Chief Ministers at that time, including Shri Shankar Rao Chavan, Shri Vagal Rao, Mrs. Nandini Satpathy and two other Chief Ministers agreed to it. With the World Bank loan of Rs. 1200 crore, this Irrigation Project come up. In fact, our erstwhile colleague Shri P.K. Deo, right from 1957 to 1980, had been demanding this Project. Shri Morarji Desai went and laid the foundation stone in 1978. For the last thirty years, the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput, districts, generally known as the KBK districts, have been synonymous with drought, starvation, migration and man-eating tigers. But this year, for the first time, they have got irrigation facility to irrigate up to 30,000 hectares, from The Indravati Project.

Therefore I had just asked a simple question. I wanted to know whether the Engineers India Limited, a public sector undertaking, had done an environmental impact analysis of the Bathalimali Bauxite Mining Project which is